

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 01840 240752 Z

10

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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R 240714 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1569

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T TEHRAN 1840

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IR, UR

SUBJECT: KOSYGIN VISIT TO IRAN

REF: TEHRAN 1754

1. BRITISH AMBASSADOR RAMSBOTHAM TOOK ME ASIDE AFTER LUNCH

22 MARCH TO RETAIL CONVERSATION HE HAD HAD WITH COURT
MINISTER ALAM IN AFTERMATH OF KOSYGIN VISIT. HE MADE
FOLLOWING POINTS: (1) IRANIAN CONVINCED KOSYGIN SENT
TO STEEL PLANT CEREMONY AT LAST MINUTE BECAUSE OF SOVIET
CONCERN OVER LARGE IRANIAN ARMS PURCHASES FROM UNITED
STATES. DURING STAY KOSYGIN KEPT PROBING FOR DETAILS
AND OTHERWISE INDICATING SIGNIFICANT INTEREST.
(2) SOVIET TEAM MADE SEVERAL EFFORTS TO HAVE VISIT COMMUNIQUE
CONTAIN STATEMENT OF JOINT IRANIAN- SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD
PERSIAN GULF. SHAH REFUSED, AND INSISTED ON LANGUAGE
SIMILAR TO THAT USED IN COMMUNIQUE WHEN HE VISITED
MOSCOW IN OCTOBER.
(3) IN REPLYING TO RAMSBOTHAM' S MORE- IN- SORROW- THAN- IN-
ANGER REFERENCE TO SHAH' S HAVING ANNOUNCED QUOTE VICTORY
UNQUOTE OVER WESTERN OIL COMPANIES WHILE STANDING AT
KOSYGIN' S SIDE, ALAM STRESSED THAT NO NATION IS MORE
SUSPICIOUS THAN IRAN OF RUSSIA' S MOTIVES AND ACTIONS AND
ADMITTED THE HITHERTO UNKNOWN FACT THAT THE SHAH HAD
ORDERED SHORT ON THE MORNING OF KOSYGIN' S ARRIVAL THE TWO
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IRANIAN OFFICERS WHO HAD BEEN CONVICTED OF SPYING FOR THE
SOVIET UNION.

2. COMMENT: REGARDING PERSIAN GULF, AS NOTED IN NUMBERED
PARA 4 REFTEL THERE IS SLIGHT DIFFERENCE IN PHRASEOLOGY BETWEEN
OCTOBER 1972 AND LATEST COMMUNIQUE ON THIS SUBJECT. FORMER
SPOKE OF GULF AFFAIRS BEING EXCLUSIVE RESPONSIBILITY OF LITTORAL
STATES WHILE LATTER STATES GULF AFFAIRS QUOTE MUST BE HANDLED BY
COUNTRIES IN THIS REGION UNQUOTE. SOME LOCAL OBSERVERS ARE
INTERPRETING THIS DIFFERENCE AS LEAVING DOOR OPEN TO SOVIETS TO
CLAIM THEY ARE COUNTRY OF REGION WITH ROLE TO PLAY IN GULF. WE
DEFER TO SOVIET WATCHERS ON THIS POINT WHICH MAY BE QUESTION
OF TRANSLATION TO ENGLISH FROM PERSIAN AND/ OR RUSSIAN TEXT.
WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING FROM EMBASSY MOSCOW HOW THESE
PARAGRAPHS CAME OUT IN TEXT ISSUED IN MOSCOW.

3. WHATEVER SEMANTICS MAY BE, WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT IN OUR
JUDGMENT IS THAT BOTH IN OCTOBER AND DURING RECENT KOSYGIN
VISIT SHAH STOOD HIS GROUND AND RESISTED SOVIET
ATTEMPTS INSERT LANGUAGE SUPPORTING THEIR OBJECTIVES IN
GULF AND CALLING FOR WITHDRAWAL OF US QUOTE BASES UNQUOTE.
HELMS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

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